

In The Claims:

Please add the following new claims 23 – 43.

- 1 23. A work piece for use with a ratcheting tool, said work piece comprising:
 - 2 a. a tool end; and
 - 3 b. a post end having a groove defined by a first frustoconical side and a second
 - 4 frustoconical side that intersect at an apex,
 - 5 said first frustoconical side defining a first angle with respect to a plane
 - 6 intersecting said apex and being perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said work piece,
 - 7 said second frustoconical side defining a second angle with respect to said plane,
 - 8 wherein one of said first angle and said second angle is smaller than the other of said
 - 9 first angle and said second angle.
- 1 24. The work piece as in claim 23, wherein said first angle is 30 degrees.
- 1 25. The work piece as in claim 23, wherein said second angle is 60 degrees.
- 1 26. The work piece as in claim 23, said post end further comprising at least one keyway
2 defined on an outer circumference thereof.
- 1 27. The work piece as in claim 23, said tool end defining an axial bore therein, wherein
2 said axial bore is polygonally shaped.
- 1 28. The work piece as in claim 23, wherein said tool end is a screw driver.
- 1 29. The work piece as in claim 23, wherein said tool end is polygonally shaped.
- 1 30. The work piece as in claim 26, said post further comprising a plurality of keyways on
2 said outer circumference.
- 1 31. The work piece as in claim 30, wherein said keyways are equiangularly spaced about
2 said outer circumference.
- 1 32. A rotary tool comprising:
 - 2 a. a handle;
 - 3 b. a head extending from said handle;
 - 4 c. a gear ring rotatably disposed in said head and defining a plurality of first teeth
 - 5 about an outer circumference thereof;
 - 6 d. a pawl disposed in said head and having a plurality of second teeth in operative
 - 7 engagement with said first teeth; and

8 e. a work piece having
9 a tool end; and
10 a post end having a first groove defined by a first frustoconical side and
11 a second frustoconical side that intersect at an apex,
12 said first frustoconical side defining a first angle with respect to a
13 plane intersecting said apex and being perpendicular to a longitudinal
14 axis of said work piece,
15 said second frustoconical side defining a second angle with
16 respect to said plane,
17 wherein one of said first angle and said second angle is smaller than the
18 other of said first angle and said second angle.

1 33. The rotary tool of claim 32, said gear ring further comprising

- 2 a. an axial bore formed therein;
- 3 b. a second groove formed on a circumference of said axial bore; and
- 4 c. a detent received in said second groove.

1 34. The rotary tool of claim 33, wherein said detent is a spring ring.

1 35. The rotary tool of claim 33, wherein said detent is a C-ring.

1 36. The rotary tool of claim 33, wherein when said work piece is inserted into said gear
2 ring axial bore so that said first groove aligns with said second groove, said detent
3 releasably secures said work piece in a first direction and axially blocks said work piece
4 from moving in an axially second direction.

1 37. The rotary tool of claim 36, wherein said first angle is 30 degrees and said second
2 angle is 60 degrees.

1 38. The rotary tool of claim 33, further comprising:

- 2 a. at least one keyway defined on one of an outer circumference of said
3 work piece and said circumference of said gear ring axial bore; and
- 4 b. at least one key formed on the other of said outer circumference and said
5 circumference of said gear ring axial bore,
6 wherein said at least one keyway aligns with and receives said at least one key.

1 39. The rotary tool of claim 32, further comprising:

- 2 a. a housing disposed in said head;

3 b. a spring received by said housing and in biasing engagement with said pawl so
4 that said spring biases said second plurality of teeth into meshing engagement with said
5 first plurality of teeth so that said pawl is movable against said bias of said spring when
6 said handle is rotated in a ratcheting direction with respect to said gear ring; and

7 c. a lever having

8 a hand actuatable outer portion, and

9 an inner portion extending into said head in driving engagement with

10 said pawl.

1 40. The rotary tool of claim 39, wherein said lever is disposed movably with respect to said
2 head and with respect to said housing so that a movement of said hand actuatable
3 portion with respect to said head and said housing moves said lever inner portion to
4 drive said pawl against said spring bias.

1 41. The rotary tool of claim 39, wherein said housing is disposed in a fixed position with
2 respect to said head.

1 42. The rotary tool of claim 39, wherein said lever is disposed rotatably in said head.

1 43. The rotary tool of claim 42, wherein said lever inner portion includes a pin that extends
2 between opposing surfaces of said pawl so that a rotation of said lever causes said pin
3 to engage one of said opposing surfaces to thereby drive said pawl within said head.